Students with disability or chronic medical condition – who are they and where are they?

There are many students whose disability or chronic medical condition impacts on their study & learning:

- Students may be in mainstream classes, support classes, or at a school for specific purposes.
- They may or may not be funded to receive support services.
- They may or may not receive disability provisions at school.
- They may be diagnosed with one or more disabilities or chronic medical conditions, including:
  - Chronic Medical Conditions (eg Asthma, Diabetes, Cancer, Crohn’s Disease, Arthritis)
  - Intellectual disability (eg Down Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome)
  - Learning disability (eg Dyslexia, Dysgraphia)
  - Mental Health Conditions (eg Depression, Anxiety Disorders, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder)
  - Neurological conditions (eg Multiple Sclerosis, Epilepsy, Autism Spectrum Disorder)
  - Physical disability (eg Spinal Cord Injury, Cerebral Palsy)
  - Sensory disability (eg Hearing, Vision)

Encourage

- attendance at annual post school transition Future Choices Expos & related events
- students to test their eligibility for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- work experience, volunteer work & any exposure to universities, TAFE, or other training providers to build confidence & skills
- independence & self advocacy skills throughout the school years
- students to talk about their disability or medical condition & how it impacts on their study or work - this way they can explain their needs leading to greater success
- students & parents to find & use inclusive technologies, taking advantage of new resources (especially freeware) - a good link is www.eduapps.org
- students & parents to keep copies of assessments & documentation of disability or medical condition... saves time when requesting support at uni, TAFE (A for NDIS)

EMPATHY

JobAccess www.jobaccess.gov.au
Not sure where to start? Check out JobAccess online or ring a JobAccess Adviser on 1800 464 800

PATHWAYS & SUPPORT

- Open or Self-Employment
- Need Help at Work? Disability Employment Services (DES) - Students can access DESs in the last 6 months of school. DESs can help to find work & apprenticeships/traineeships. Find your closest DES through JobAccess above or www.jobaccess.gov.au/australia-a-provider
- Jobactive - ring Job Seeker Hotline 13 62 69 to find a provider or go to https://jobsearch.gov.au/employers/providers
- Australian Disability Enterprises (Supported Employment) - referral via NDIS

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Employment Assistance Fund (workplace mods) - see JobAccess
- Other Government Programs
  * See Pathways & Connections Guide

APPRENTICESHIPS/TRAINEESHIPS

Support for people with disability
- Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Scheme (DAAWS) - assistance for tutorial, interpreter & mentor services
- Workplace Modifications - purchase of special equipment www.jobaccess.gov.au 1800 464 800

Australian Apprenticeship Network Providers
- VERTO 1300 483 786
- Apprenticeship Support Australia 1300 383 831
- MEGT 138 963
- Sarina Russo 1300 178 776

Australian Apprenticeships www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au


VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (VET)

TAFE Teacher/Consultants
TAFE NSW has specialist Teacher/Consultants (TC) to ensure people with disability have equal access on campus.

Make an appointment to find out what assistance is available www.tafensw.edu.au/student-services/disability-services

Hunter/Central Coast phone 4923 7450

Courses with other VET providers eg Registered Training Organisations, Group Training Org. https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au for students or phone 1300 772 104

Adult Community Education
* See Pathways & Connections Guide for a list of regional providers

UNIVERSITY

Uni Disability/AccessAbility Services
Uni Advisers can answer all kinds of questions. It’s best for students to make an appointment rather than just call in.

Find a list of NSW uni services at www.adcet.edu.au/students-with-disability/current-students-disability-services-university

Uni Open Days
Go to uni Open Days to explore courses AND meet AccessAbility staff. Find their websites on the link above.

Educational Access Scheme (EAS)
Apply via UAC. EAS recognises disability & medical conditions as long-term educational disadvantage. Use a copy of your documentation & apply for support at uni - this saves time! www.uac.edu.au/eas


VOLUNTEERING

NSW Volunteering
Find a centre near you... www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au

Hunter
Hunter Volunteer Centre 4940 0777 | www.hvc.org.au

Central Coast
Central Coast Volunteer & Referral Agency | 4329 7122 www.volunteeringcentralcoast.org.au

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

* See Pathways & Connections Guide for links to Disability & Youth Services/Programs

STAY IN THE LOOP

Social Media
www.facebook.com/ndconewcastle
Expos www.facebook.com/ndconewcastle

Events & Networks to Join
www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco

For further information contact NDCO (Hunter-Central Coast)
University of Newcastle
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